(b) The meeting held on 28.4.1995 was followed by another meeting on 4.5.1995. Leaders of various political parties expressed their views. Government are keeping their views in mind while considering further course of action.

Vocational institutes for handicapped in states

8497. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Vocational Institutes have been established to train handicapped people in different States;

(b) if so, details of such centrally sponsored Vocational Institutes;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to establish a Vocational Institute in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) what other innovative measures are proposed to bring handicapped people into the mainstream of economic life; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped have been established all over the country to evaluate the residual capacity of the handicapped job-seekers and provide necessary rehabilitation assistance to them. These Centres are located at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneshwar, Bombay, Calcutta; Delhi; Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Jaipur; Guwahati Kanpur, Ludhiana, Madras, Thiruvanathapuram, Agartala, Patna & Vododara.. In order to impart non-formal job oriented skill training, 7 Skill Training Workshops (STWs) have been attached to 7 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Madras and Thiruvanathapuram.

(c) and (d) One Vocational Rehabilitation Centre is already functioning at Hyderabad in the State of A.P.

(e) and (f) The measures taken by the Ministry of Welfare to bring handicapped persons into the mainstream of economic life are placed in the statement.

STATEMENT

Vocational Institutes for handicapped in States.

The subject of 'Relief to the disabled and unemployable is the responsibility of the State Government under Entry 9 in List II (State List). The Ministry of Welfare, Government of India plays a supporting and coordinating role.

The thrust of all the programmes/schemes implemented by the Ministry of Welfare for handicapped welfare is to bring the disabled persons including mentally retarded persons in the mainstream of life. Major programmes/schemes of the Ministry of Welfare for achieving the objective mentioned above, are as follows:—

(1) *Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled*

Under this scheme, assistance is provided to voluntary organisations to run rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. It is a comprehensive scheme covering different areas of rehabilitation—physical, psychological, social and economic, Financial support is given to the extent of 90 per cent of the total project cost (upto 95 percent for the rural areas) for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistance is given for the projects such as vocational training centres, special schools, counselling centres, hostels, training centres for personnels placement services etc.

(2) *Establishment and Development of Spcial Schools*

The scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs to the extent of 90 percent for establishment and upgradattion of special schools in four major disabilities—orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there are no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

(3) *Assistance to Organisations for persons with Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation for manpower development*

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100 per cent for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation.

(4) *Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons*

Under this scheme, assistance is given upto 90 percent to voluntary organisations in developing programmes for rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons.

(5) *National Institutes*

In order to effectively deal with the multi-dimensional problems of the handicapped population, the following four National Institutes have been set up. These Institutes are apex level organisations in the field of training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation, development of suitable service modules. These Institutes also serve as premier documentation and information centres in their are of disability:—

(1) National Institutes for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.

(2) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.

(3) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay.

(4) National Institute for the mentally Handicapped. Secunderabad.

In addition to these the following two institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons:—

(1) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

(2) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Olatpur, Orissa.

(6) *Employment*

(i) 3 percent vacancies is reserved for physically handicapped—1 per cent each for the visual, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in Group C and D posts in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings. Similar reservations have been given by some State Governments. The handicapped including the blind are also give age concession in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government services.

(iii) 23 Special Employment Exchanges and 55 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment, Besides the Normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following:

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and petty shops;

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme;

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

(7) Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase of fitting of Aids/Appliances

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their phsyical, social psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the Companies, registered under Companies Act, registered societies, Trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both governmental and non-governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200/- and at 50 percent of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201 and Rs. 2500/-.

Finance corporation to help handicapped people

8498. SHRI YERRA NARAYNASWAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a finance corporation to help handicapped people in the country;

(b) whether a large number of handicapped people are anxious to better their living standards;

(c) the manner in which Government propose to assist such people to start their own self employment projects; and

(d) the steps proposed to establish a Finance Corporation exclusively for handicapped people?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Details are being worked out.

(d) Yes, Sir.

World bank assistance for welfare programmes

8499. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "World Bank to fund welfare programmes" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated 24.4 95;

(b) if so, the details of welfare programmes launched/propose to be launched by Government for which World Bank has agreed to give assistance;

(c) the total assistance World Bank has agreed to give;

(d) whether Government also propose to share in these welfare programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposed Ecodevelopment Project is likely to be implemented in 7 Wild life protection areas of India including 6 Project Tiger Reserves. This proposal aims to improve management of these project areas, involve local people in the Ecodevelopment to improve their living standards, and to develop research and build up institutions.